(c) the measures Government are taking or propose to take to boost the library movement in the country; and

(d) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The Department of Culture would give a push to the modernization of central and public libraries in the country in accordance with the objectives of the Tenth Plan. As part of this programme, the major libraries such as National Library, Kolkata and Central Secrearíat Library, Delhi have already initiated the work for creating the electronic resource base of the existing holdings. These electronic databases would be made available to the public libraries throughout the country for easy access and dissemination of available resources in the country. The public libraries at the state, district and village levels would be the main beneficiaries as they would then be in a position to access the resources available in the central libraries for the use of general public. The said project of retro-conversion of existing catalogues in the National Library and Central Secretariat Library is anticipated to be completed during the Tenth Plan.

Alleged irregularities in foreign offices

†1345. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Rashtriya Sahara', New Delhi edition dated the 14th January, 2003 under the caption "paryatan Mantralaya Ke London Karyalaya Mein Lakhon Ka Ghotala";

(b) if so, the facts of the said case;

(c) whether Government have constituted any Committee to conduct an enquiry in the said case; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the fresh steps Government are going to take to minimise lavish expenditure of tourist offices of Government of India situated in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Local Audit Party and Indian Audit Office, London has made certain observations in respect of India tourism Office, London. Department of Tourism has examined the observations made by the Audit and initiated necessary follow up action.

Funds allocated for tourism in Assam

1346. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked for the promotion of tourism in Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of allocation proposed to be spent during the current financial year in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for identified tourism projects in consultation with them. During the Tenth Plan it has been decided to take up integrated development of tourist circuits and integrated development of major destinations.

(b) During the current financial year the following projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated development of Tourism Circuits Scheme, for the State of Assam:—

(i) Brahmaputra River Front Development at Guwahati-Rs. 30 lakhs.

(ii) Development of Ethnic village at Bhalukpunj, Tezpur-Rs. 45 lakhs.

(iii) Camping site at Kohra range Kaziranga-Rs. 152 lakhs.

(iv) Road Signages for Assam-Rs. 24 lakhs.